MAKING COMMUNITIES BETTER WITH BROADBAND
Learning how to build Strong Rural Economies with Broadband for Educational opportunities; Improved Healthcare; Job Creation, Retention and Growth; and other Economic Expansion.

TUESDAY

Time	Session
8:30 am - 9:00 am	**Registration**
9:00 am - 9:30 am	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** **Ryan McMullen**, USDA Oklahoma State Office Director **Keith B. Adams**, Assistant Administrator, RUS Telecommunications Program
9:30 am -10:00 am	**Eddy Dempsey**, Representative from the Office of Congressman Markwayne Mullin **Judy Allen**, Senior Executive Officer of Tribal Relations, Choctaw Nation
10:00 am - 10:30 am	**Networking Break**
10:30 am - Noon	**Broadband Success Stories Panel Discussion** **Moderator: Samuel Sanchez**, Cherokee Telecommunications Pine Telephone, Broken Bow, OK [Jerry Whisenhunt] Northeast Rural Service, Vinita, OK [Sheila Allgood] ConnectHome Initiative [Scott Grosfield] Hear from current broadband service providers regarding the funding process, the challenges and rewards of building a broadband network, and how to get started.
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	**Lunch Break** Lunch provided by City of McAlester Tourism Department **Dr. Stephen Smith**, President of Eastern Oklahoma State College
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	**RUS Program Updates** **Laurel Leverrier**, RUS Telecommunications Program How much in funds are available and the different programs for applying for financial assistance.
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**How to Get a Community Broadband Initiative Started** **Laurel Leverrier**, RUS Telecommunications Program
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	**The Pros and Cons of Different Broadband Technologies** **Michael Becker**, RUS Telecommunications Program, General Field Representative (GFR) How to choose between different available technologies—from Fiber-to-the-Home to mobile broadband networks.
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	**Networking Break**
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	**The Community Connect Grant Program: What Makes a Winning Application?** **Chris Nemarich**, RUS Telecommunications Program Tips for applying for Community Connect grants, what to think about going in, and what to prepare in advance.
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm	**Wrap-up** **Bob Ehrlich**, RUS Telecommunications Program

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

MAKING COMMUNITIES BETTER WITH BROADBAND
Learning how to build Strong Rural Economies with Broadband for Educational opportunities; Improved Healthcare; Job Creation, Retention and Growth; and other Economic Expansion.

WEDNESDAY

Time	Session
8:00 am - 8:30 am	**Registration**
8:30 am - 9:30 am	**Environmental Protection Agency: Sustainable Communities and the Cool & Connected Project** **Ed Fendley**, EPA Program Manager, Local Foods/Local Places, Office of Sustainable Communities **Erin Okeefe**, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities Come learn how construction does not have to be destructive and about a new program that will look at how broadband can help revitalize a community.
9:30 am - 10:00 am	**FCC E-Rate Program** **Irene M. Flannery**, Acting Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
10:00 am - 10:30 am	**Networking Break**
10:30 am - 11:30 am	**Planning Your Community Broadband Roadmap and Overcoming Adoption Barriers** **Jean Rice**, Senior Program Specialist, BroadbandUSA / NTIA
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	**FirstNet Network: Using Broadband Technology to Meet Public Safety Needs** **Carl F. Rebstock**, National Tribal Government Liaison First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	**Lunch Break** On your own
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	**RUS Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) Provisions** **Bob Ehrlich**, RUS Telecommunications Program, Policy and Outreach division Learn about the available benefits of the SUTA Provisions for those serving trust lands, what RUS Programs are covered by SUTA, and how to apply for SUTA consideration.
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	**Rural Development Funding Opportunities** **Tom Roberts**, Director of Multi-Family Housing Programs, Oklahoma State Office **Brian Wiles**, Director of Business & Cooperative Programs, Oklahoma State Office **Jerry Efurd**, Single Family Housing and Community Programs, Oklahoma State Office
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	**Wrap up** **Laurel Leverrier**, RUS Telecommunications Program